

SERC Meeting
April 23, 2021

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[SERC]

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1 Brune: -- Commissioner Craig Christenson. I spoke with
2 General Saxe, uh, yesterday. He sends his regards for
3 not being able to be here. Uh, I am excited to have,
4 uh -- to be meeting with all of you. I like to start
5 off all my meetings with, uh -- a safety shares, uh,
6 from myself and anyone around the wor- -- uh -- the
7 room, uh -- so I'll start off by saying anyone 16 and
8 over can get vaccinated. If you haven't yet get vac-
9 -- uh -- gotten vaccinated, please do so. This is a
10 great opportunity. We were at one time leading the
11 nation, indeed leading the world in vaccinations, uh -
12 - very proud of that. We're -- we're not, uh -- doing
13 as well as we once were, so we want to encourage folks
14 to -- to get those vaccines. It doesn't hurt. I've
15 had COVID, uh -- and I've gotten the vaccine, and I
16 tell you, the vaccine is much better than getting
17 COVID, so I want to encourage everyone to -- to please
18 do that, and, uh -- if there's any, uh, other safety
19 shares, uh -- that folks would like to, uh -- share,
20 I'm going to open up the floor right now, and then
21 we'll -- we'll go to roll -- rollcall.

22 Reeve: Co-Chair Reeve. Uh, just a good reminder, hey, uh,
23 South Central weather is looking really nice, uh -- as
24 much as we want to be outside, the bears are coming
25 out as well, so just a big -- good bear ni- -- good

1 bear awareness reminder.

2 Brune: That's a great -- great one. Thank you. Any others?
3 Hearing none, okay, uh -- uh -- I'll turn it over to
4 you, Kevin, for rollcall, quorum, and administrative
5 announcements.

6 Reeve: Thank you, sir. We'll do the rollcall first.
7 Obviously we have Commissioner Brune. We have, uh,
8 Deputy Commissioner Christenson, uh, DCCED, uh -- is
9 there a representative from DCCED? Please answer aye.

10 Anderson: Yes, this is Julie Anderson. Good afternoon.

11 Reeve: Thank you, Commissioner Anderson. Fish and Gra- -- or
12 Fish and Game, uh, Rick Green, are you on?

13 Green: Yeah, I am on. Fish and Game is here.

14 Reeve: Thank you, Rick. Uh, Heidi Hedberg for DHSS. Heidi,
15 are you on?

16 Hedberg: Hi, Kevin. I am here.

17 Reeve: Thank you, Heidi. Uh, Commissioner Ledbetter? I
18 believe she is unavailable today? To doublecheck,
19 Commissioner Ledbetter? Natural Resources, I believe
20 Ms. List (ph), are you on?

21 List: Yes, I am. Representing Commissioner Feige for
22 Division of Forestry with NDNR.

23 Reeve: Thank you, ma'am. Uh, D- -- DPS, Public Safety
24 Commissioner Cockrell or Lieutenant Fussey (ph) are
25 you on? Okay, we'll circle back. I believe, uh,

1 Lieutenant Fussey was going to join us. Uh, DOT Dan
2 Monteleone, we know you're on. Thank you, sir.
3 Monteleone: Hello.
4 Reeve: Uh, George Vakalis from the Urbur- -- Urban LEPC.
5 Vakalis: Here.
6 Reeve: Uh, Simon Brown from Urban LEPC.
7 Brown: Here.
8 Reeve: Chriss Noel from Rural LEPC? Chris, I think I saw you
9 on.
10 Noel: I'm here, thanks.
11 Reeve: Yep. Dave Miller from, uh -- uh, Rural LEPC. Sir, I
12 see you on.
13 Miller: Here.
14 Reeve: Thank you.
15 Miller: Yep.
16 Reeve: Uh, local government, Casey Cook, I see you on. Local
17 government Abner Hoage, I saw that you were on.
18 Hoage: Yes, sir, I'm here.
19 Reeve: Public at Large, uh, Kelly Donnelly, ma'am, are you
20 on?
21 Donnelly: Present.
22 Reeve: Kelly?
23 Donnelly: I'm here.
24 Reeve: Thank you. Uh, ex officio members. Mr. Dave
25 Donnelly, are you on, sir?

1 Donley: Yes, I am for the Department of Administration.

2 Reeve: Thank you, sir. Uh, Assistant Commissioner Tshibaka
3 for DEED? Sir, you're on?

4 Tshibaka: I am.

5 Reeve: Thank you, sir. Uh, Robert Forgit, I see you're on,
6 sir. Thank you.

7 Forgit: Yes, good day.

8 Reeve: Teddy Thompson for Alaska Command. Are you on, sir?
9 Okay. U.S. Coast Guard?

10 Smith: Commander Scott Smith, U.S. Coast Guard.

11 Reeve: Commander Smith, thank you, sir. Uh, EPA?

12 Whittier: Yeah. Bob Whittier's on.

13 Reeve: Thank you, sir. Uh, co-chairs, we do have a quorum,
14 uh, so we are good to go with the conduct of the
15 meeting. Uh, some quick administrative announcements,
16 uh -- please -- or everyone just remember that we are
17 doing the meeting virtually. You are being records as
18 is indicated at the top of your screen, uh -- that
19 will be used for meeting minutes and also as a public
20 record. So, uh -- if you would, please, state your
21 name at the beginning of each of your comments just to
22 help us capture the meeting -- uh -- the minutes. Uh,
23 we will have two public comment periods during this
24 SERC. If there are any, uh, members of the public
25 that desire to make comment, please put that desire in

1 the chat. We will be monitoring the chat to ensure
2 that we capture, uh -- anyone that decides to make
3 public comment. And as we get to those sections, I
4 will be identifying to the co-chairs, uh, that there
5 is or is not a desire for public comment. And
6 Commissioner Brune, that's all I have, sir, so I turn
7 it back to you, uh, and Deputy Commissioner
8 Christenson as the co-chairs.

9 Brune: Thank you very much, Kevin. I really appreciate the -
10 - those announcements and the rollcall. Uh, again,
11 welcome to -- everyone -- everyone for the 2021 spring
12 SERC meeting. Want to thank -- thank everyone for
13 taking the time to join us today. Uh, I'm going to
14 start off with a -- uh -- brief overview of some DEC
15 issues, and then I know Craig's going to do the same
16 for some DMVA. Uh, we recently had transition in the,
17 uh, Director of Spill Prevention Response and I'm
18 really excited to welcome Tiffany Larson as our new
19 director of SPAR. She's on, uh, with us today. So,
20 uh -- uh -- obviously this winter, uh, we were talking
21 about it before the meeting with, uh, all the breakup
22 and all the big winter that we had, uh -- uh -- we've
23 been having a -- a lot of issues in rural Alaska so
24 our village -- Village Safe Water Program and Rural
25 Maintenance Worker Program, uh, which is coordinated



1 with, uh, ANTHC and other tribal health organizations
2 have been working closely on some of the freeze up and
3 water issues that have been going on throughout some
4 of our rural communities, uh, as they usually do in
5 winter months. Uh, of course, we're hearing about
6 breakup, uh, that's already happening expeditiously.
7 Very rapidly in some areas with the huge warmup, so we
8 want to encourage individuals, businesses, uh, and
9 communities to check out DEC's flood prevention
10 response resources. Uh, we did provide links to a
11 variety of those tools in our write ups, uh, in -- in
12 the binders and -- and online that, uh, you all should
13 have received. Uh, of course, COVID has made
14 everything unusual for -- for all of us, so we've been
15 working very hard to adapt and, uh -- continue to
16 provide the services that we do at DEC to Alaskans.
17 Our SPAR staff have, uh, continued to successfully
18 respond to spills, even in the midst of COVID. Uh --
19 uh -- even with, uh, remote, uh, incident management
20 when -- when appropriate. Uh, in collaboration with
21 our industry partners, uh -- the program continues to
22 ensure operational integrity and it also maintains
23 adequate spill response readiness. Uh, we have our
24 environmental health, uh, division staff, uh -- a
25 number of them still do remain, uh -- remain assigned



1 to incident command within the Critical Infrastructure
2 Sustainment, uh, Branch. Uh, as a whole, DEC has been
3 fully functional throughout the pandemic with day to
4 day activities. Uh, we, uh, have had between 75 and
5 80% of our staff working, uh -- teleworking, uh --
6 we've found that that's actually worked, uh, very
7 well, keeping, uh -- keeping staff safe, uh -- and --
8 and of course, the folks we regulate as well, uh --
9 and -- and when necessary, of course, going into the
10 field and -- and office as needed. Uh, we've
11 established, uh -- uh -- a COVID-19 website, uh, which
12 is the first item you can find on our website when you
13 go to DEC.Alaska.gov. Uh, on it, there are DEC, uh,
14 procedures for inspections and field work during COVID
15 as well as division specific guidance. Of course, we
16 want to make sure that as DEC staff that are required
17 to do the work that we're doing, that we're not being
18 vectors for bringing COVID to rural communities,
19 especially those communities that don't have the
20 healthcare infrastructure that might be needed. Uh,
21 Megan Coiler (ph) has, uh, moved into the
22 commissioner's office here at DEC. Uh, she's going to
23 continue her role as our disaster coordinator, but
24 she's also going to be taking on the tribal liaison,
25 uh, component, uh, for -- for her job duties. Uh,



1 also want to say that, uh -- uh -- specific
2 information about our potential updates to our regs,
3 uh, oil discharge prevention and C Plan (ph) Regs, uh
4 -- tier two significant spills have occurred since the
5 last SERC and, uh -- meeting and other items of note
6 are -- are included in the write up that we have
7 included in the packet. Uh, again, really -- really
8 looking forward to the rest of the meeting today, and
9 with that, uh, I'm going to turn it over to, uh,
10 Deputy Commissioner, uh, Craig for his -- his opening
11 comments.

12 Christenson: Thanks, commissioner. So, uh -- on behalf of
13 Commissioner Saxe, I'd like to thank everyone for
14 joining today. And, uh -- Commissioner Saxe asked me
15 to extend his sincere appreciation to all the
16 emergency managers and responders across the state, uh
17 -- he knows that this has been a very, very busy time
18 for all of you. One thing I'd like to do is, uh,
19 recognize Paul Nelson for his service to the state as
20 the director of Homeland Security Emergency
21 Management. Most of you probably know that he's moved
22 onto another job, so I'd like to welcome Bryan Fisher,
23 which I'm sure you all know, uh, into, uh, position as
24 acting director for the foreseeable future, uh -- you
25 know, Bryan has been with the department for quite a



1 while, and brings a wealth of knowledge, so the --
2 his, uh -- we're in good hands there. Just two other,
3 uh -- uh -- personnel, uh, things to bring up. Uh,
4 Azara Mohammadi was brought on as our tribal liaison
5 for the department and the National Guard, and then,
6 uh -- Robin Gabel (ph) has moved into the legislative
7 liaison and special assist position, so those are some
8 other people that, uh, you may hear their names or --
9 or work with from time to time. Uh, so although, uh,
10 COVID has been time consuming, uh, the department has
11 also been working on, uh -- normal business, and, uh -
12 - it's p- -- you know, supporting communities with
13 partnership of the other state departments, uh --
14 tribal local governments, and a few other things that
15 over the last six months -- that, uh -- the department
16 in particular, uh -- Division of Homeland Security
17 Emergency Management's working on, uh -- October we
18 had a 7.6 earthquake near Sand Point, and, uh -- which
19 caused some tsunami warnings out along the Aleutians
20 and Kodiak and Homer. And also in October, in Prince
21 of Wales. Uh, there was, uh, flooding and landslides.
22 In December, there were flooding and landslides in
23 multiple southeast communities and in particular, uh,
24 major response in Haines, uh -- January we -- we had -
25 - we saw the (inaudible - 00:12:13) fire up in

1 Tuluksak which has led to a loss of infrastructure and
2 -- and water and we appreciate DEC's work on that.
3 Uh, February, (inaudible - 00:12:23) power outages
4 resulting in water and sewer, and -- and also in
5 February, Nenana and Unalakleet had similar freeze up
6 conditions. And also, uh, we appreciate our
7 partnership with DEC working through those issues.
8 And mostly recently, uh, in Chief (inaudible -
9 00:12:39) uh -- with the structure fire and -- and
10 subsequent hazardous material, uh, issues from the old
11 school building. So, that's kind of what our
12 department, uh, has been working on the last few
13 months, but primarily COVID is -- uh -- has been
14 taking everyone's time, and I'm sure same with
15 everyone out there too. So, with that, I -- I'll pass
16 it on back to Commissioner Brune. Thank you.

17 Brune: Thank you, deputy commissioner. I appreciate that
18 update. Uh, we're going to -- to go to the next, uh,
19 agenda item, which is member introductions. Uh, I do
20 know that we have a new member of the SERC. Uh, Dave
21 Miller, uh, with Sit- -- from Sitka is joining us as a
22 rural LEPC representative. Uh, on this commission.
23 Dave has recently retired from the Sitka fire
24 department and completed a successful tenure as the
25 LEPCA, uh, co-chair, uh -- Dave, welcome, uh --



1 welcome to SERC. It's great to have you. Uh, Kevin,
2 I don't know if, uh, you wanted us to -- to go around
3 the room, uh, as well or, uh -- what's -- what's your
4 recommendation there?

5 Reeve: Sir, I don't know if that's necessary at this point.
6 We went through the rollcall. Uh, to add one point of
7 clarification -- so, Colonel Pixley and Teddy Thompson
8 have, uh, both joined us from ALCOM. So, we've gone
9 through, uh -- I would differ to you but, uh -- for
10 everyone's benefit, we have specifically streamlined
11 this meeting in consideration of your -- the
12 criticality of your time, uh -- so my recommendation,
13 sir, is I -- I think we're good at this point.

14 Brune: That's great. Uh, thank you. I -- I guess I do want
15 to provide an opportunity for those that, uh -- uh --
16 weren't as part of the rollcall, uh, if you care to
17 introduce yourself, we'd be happy to -- to know that
18 you're -- you're on the line, so I -- I'll open it up
19 for anyone that would like to introduce themselves.
20 All right, hearing none, uh, next agenda item is
21 approval of previous meeting minutes which, uh -- the
22 -- uh -- was Kevin said, we are suspending this, uh,
23 due to cancellation of the spring 2020 SERC, uh, and
24 our efforts to streamline this meeting, uh -- so we'll
25 now then go to the, uh, public comment. So, if there

1 is an interest in, uh -- uh -- anyone giving public
2 comment, we had, uh, requested folks to write their
3 names along the side, uh -- and let -- let us know. I
4 don't see any of those, but I want to make sure,
5 again, if there is an interest in public comment, we
6 will provide the opportunity for folks, so I -- I'll
7 open the microphone up for anyone that might be
8 interested.

9 Reeve: Sir, I have no one indicating a -- a desire for public
10 comment.

11 Brune: Thank you. Is there anyone, uh, that may not have had
12 the time to type their information on the side but
13 would like to give comments anyway? All righty, we
14 will move to Tab 5, which is the consent agenda. Uh,
15 uh -- on your agenda, uh, which was obviously Tab 1,
16 uh, I'd like to see if there's a -- uh -- a motion to
17 approve, uh, the agenda that we have on -- on Tab 1.

18 Hoage: So moved, Abner.

19 Vakalis: So moved, Vakalis. Second, Vakalis.

20 Brune: We have a -- a motion and a second. Uh, is there any
21 discussion? Hearing none, is there any opposition to
22 the motion? Hearing no opposition the, uh, agenda,
23 uh, passes. Uh, we now want to go to LEPC
24 appointments, uh -- we have, uh, four appointments
25 from, uh -- one from Nome, Brad Soske (ph). From

1 Juneau, we have Travis Mead (ph), Gregory Smith (ph),
2 and Jonathan Suck (ph). Uh, if I could please get a
3 motion for, uh, those appointments?

4 Vakalis: So moved, Vakalis.

5 Hoage: Second, Hoage.

6 Brune: Thank you. Uh, is there any discussion about the --
7 the nominations? Or the confirmations? Hearing none,
8 is there any opposition to the motion? Hearing none,
9 the, uh -- welcome to Brad, Travis, Greggory, and
10 Jonathan. It's great to have you, uh, on board. 5C,
11 uh, SERC meeting dates. Uh, we do need to, uh -- uh -
12 - set meeting dates for the upcoming, uh, SERC
13 meetings that we're going to be having. I know that
14 there was a proposed, uh, uh -- date we had a while
15 back, but it seems to be conflicting with the Alaska
16 Federation of, uh, Natives, uh, event, so, uh, we're
17 proposing October 15th of 2021 and then next spring,
18 April 22nd. Uh, could I get a motion for approval of
19 those dates?

20 Vakalis: So moved, Vakalis.

21 Hoage: Second, Hoage.

22 Brune: We have a motion and a second. Is there any
23 discussion on the proposed dates of October 15th, 2021
24 and April 22nd, 2022 for our next two meetings?
25 Hearing no discussion, is there any opposition to the

1 motion? Hearing none, our next two meeting dates are
2 set.

3 Reeve: Mr. Co-Chair? If I might, uh -- I know there was s- -
4 - with everything that's going on and everything
5 that's on folks' calendars, I understand we have a
6 little bit of an issue with this meeting. What we
7 will be doing to rectify that problem is early next
8 week, now that we have the dates approved for the fall
9 of 2021 and spring of 2022, we will send you out a
10 meeting invite to get that on the calendar for you.
11 It will not have connectivity or if we have the option
12 of doing it in person, the location, but we will get
13 it on your calendar, uh -- we will send out an invite
14 and additional information about 30 days out, and then
15 the agenda -- the -- the (inaudible - 00:18:46) tabs,
16 uh -- about two weeks in advance. So, hopefully we
17 will keep it every -- fresh in everyone's mind, uh --
18 when the SERC hits. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

19 Brune: Oh, thank you. Thanks for all of you coordination and
20 everything you do. We couldn't -- we couldn't do this
21 without you. I'm going to move to Agenda Item 6,
22 which is state agency reports. Interestingly, uh,
23 what was in the packets that were provided, uh, they
24 are from previous directors for both DEC and DMVA, so,
25 uh -- uh -- we are really excited though. We have two



1 great replacements and I want to just take again this
2 opportunity to both welcome, uh, Bryan and Tiffany,
3 uh, to -- to the group and, uh, offer the opportunity
4 for both of them to -- to give any comments or -- or
5 address the -- uh -- reports that they provided if
6 they're interested. So, we'll start with you, Bryan.

7 Fisher: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and, uh -- Co-Chair
8 Christenson, members of the commission, uh -- for the
9 record, my name is Bryan Fisher, uh -- my previous job
10 or -- or -- it was as chief of operations for the
11 Division of Homeland Security and Emergency
12 Management. Going all the way back to when we were
13 the Alaska Division of Emergency Services. So, now I
14 am the acting director as, uh -- Deputy Commissioner
15 Christenson mentioned, uh, with Paul's departure, uh -
16 - so it's an honor to continue to serve with all of
17 you. Uh, I've -- I've known almost everybody on this
18 meeting, on the commission, and -- and with our local
19 emergency planning committees for -- been working with
20 you for over, uh -- you know, close to 30 years now,
21 so, uh -- I -- I'm honored and -- uh -- to be able to
22 continue that partnership and that work together. Uh
23 -- I won't belabor, uh, anything else. The -- our
24 Deputy Commissioner, uh, Christenson spoke to some of
25 the things that we've worked on since last we met, uh



1 -- Director Hedberg and I will be talking about, uh,
2 COVID, up -- up in the front -- or in a little bit
3 down on the agenda, uh -- but I just will say thank
4 you to, uh, all of you commissioners, uh, on -- on the
5 -- on the SERC as well as all of the local
6 jurisdictions and agency partners that are on the
7 meeting today. We could not have been as successful
8 as we were with response to this pandemic, uh -- we
9 really are the leaders in the nation, and -- and in
10 many aspects, the globe, on how we were able to manage
11 and -- and maintain and respond, uh -- to the effects
12 of COVID-19, and it's -- all of us are in it together.
13 So, I -- I can't -- I can't say thank you enough on
14 behalf of us at the -- the COVID-19 Unified Command
15 and the division for your partnership and your -- your
16 stamina. We're not quite out of it yet, but we're
17 getting very, very close and we're very excited to
18 talk about some things, uh, further down the agenda,
19 uh -- to build excitement as we get closer to summer.
20 So, thank you very much, commissioners. Uh, chairs,
21 and members of the commission, and I look forward to
22 continuing to work with you like I have been for what
23 feels like 100 years. I'm very happy to work with, uh
24 -- with Tiffany and -- and the folks at SPAR like we
25 always have. Thank you.



1 Brune: Bryan, we're so fortunate to have you in this role,
2 and, uh -- I -- I have to say thank you for all of the
3 long days, long nights that you have spent, that
4 Heidi's spent, that so many people have spent on your
5 teams in working on protecting Alaskans and -- and
6 it's -- I can't say thank you enough, and we're --
7 like I said -- very fortunate to have you in -- in
8 your new role, your continued role with -- with this
9 effort, so, uh -- thank you, great -- great, uh --
10 great presentation, and Tiffany, I -- I'll give you
11 the -- the floor right now.

12 Larson: Thanks, commissioner. Good afternoon, everyone. Uh,
13 I'm Tiffany Larson and I am the newly appointed
14 director for the Division of Spill Prevention and
15 Response. Uh, in the packet there you'll see our
16 report and I'll just touch on a few highlight reel
17 items for you -- for you all. Uh, the first of which
18 -- our team's COVID response and how we've been
19 managing is we've been working between the, uh -- our
20 offices, home, and the field, and successfully been
21 able to respond to drills, uh -- respond to spills,
22 rather, and participate in drills while managing to
23 incorporate some technology to our advantage in that
24 timeframe. Uh, and involve ourselves in some remote
25 incident management. Uh, in addition to that, the

1 commissioner had already touched on some of our
2 regulatory updates. They're in the packet if you'd
3 like to, uh -- uh -- look into those further. Uh,
4 let's see. Oh, and with spring break up -- happening
5 really fast this year, uh -- there's some guidance
6 documents and some templates that you can use for some
7 public outreach -- also in our packet, and links to
8 those, uh, and links to our website for some help on
9 homeowners managing their home hea- -- heating oil
10 tanks, uh -- other than that, I don't think I have
11 much to update. The rest is tier two and then our
12 activities and the remote maintenance worker
13 activities the commissioner already touched on. So,
14 thank you for having me and it's great to meet you
15 all.

16 Brune: Well, and I'm -- I'm particularly lucky to have
17 Tiffany on our team. Tiffany's been at DEC for 16
18 years, she worked in SPAR for five or six, we worked
19 in Air (ph). She recently worked in Water and, uh --
20 I know this is digressing a bit, but Tiffany really
21 kind of led the nation in helping establish protocols
22 for doing virtual inspections. Uh, she and -- uh --
23 Jason from the Air team -- the Air team helped put
24 those together and were -- were really pioneering the
25 way that we can use technology. We can use things



1 like iPhones to go out to rural places, what -- that
2 have internet connectivity to help do inspections, to
3 help work on spills. Uh, it's -- it's -- we -- we
4 should use technology, especially in a state like
5 Alaska, and we're -- we're very fortunate to have
6 Tiffany in that role. So, welcome to both of you.
7 Uh, thank you for your presentations. I now want to
8 go to Agenda Item 7. Uh, which is the LEPCs. Uh, I
9 know that either Abner or Dave, uh, may have brief
10 comments from the -- the meeting that occurred earlier
11 in the day, uh -- uh -- if -- if either one of you
12 want to, uh -- take the floor as co-chairs, I -- I --
13 we'd love to hear from you.

14 Hoage: Yes, thank you, commissioner. Abner Hoage for the
15 record. I am one of the co-chairs on the LEPCA, and,
16 uh -- as you mentioned at the beginning of the
17 meeting, Chief Miller did retire in Sitka there during
18 the past year and as such, he will no longer be the --
19 the community's representative to the LEPCA. The fire
20 chief there that took his place will take over that
21 role. So, Dave has stepped down as a co-chair on the
22 LEPCA. And we want to thank him for many, many years
23 of service on the LEPCA. Uh -- I've served with him
24 as one of the co-chairs for well, as long as I've been
25 on the committee, so Dave, thank you for your time,



1 and thank you for your dedication to the LEPCA over
2 the years. With that, we did elect a new co-chair
3 today and going forward, Mr. Tom Vaden (ph) from Nome
4 will be the other co-chair on the LEPCA with me.

5 Brune: Excellent. Thank you --

6 Hoage: And that's all I have, commissioner.

7 Brune: Thank you for your continued service, uh -- uh -- as
8 well, Dave, thank you so much for all those years and
9 congratulations Tom, uh -- thank you for stepping up,
10 uh, as well. Uh, any, uh -- I have on here that we
11 also have the -- the agenda or previous meeting
12 minutes, uh -- I don't know if there's, Abner,
13 discussion on either one of those, or --

14 Hoage: The -- those were, uh -- there were no minutes. That
15 was suspended in our meeting in the interest of time
16 as well, so nothing to report there, commissioner.

17 Brune: Okay, thank you. Agenda Item 8, uh, LEPC status re- -
18 - I'm sorry, go ahead.

19 Anderson: Oh, I'm sorry, uh, Jason, this is Julie. I don't know
20 if this is an appropriate time or not, but I'll just
21 ask the question. Uh, when I had asked Sander (ph)
22 for updated materials for this meeting, I think the,
23 uh, LEPC committee planners from around the state --
24 it's a 2018 list and we noticed that some of the
25 information was outdated. Do we just have the wrong

1 list, or do we still need to update that?

2 Brune: Thanks, Commissioner Anderson, for your question. I
3 think what we'll want to make sure that -- uh -- that
4 we get with you, and -- and commerce to ensure that
5 the -- the correct lists are out there and that might
6 be something that we, uh, uh -- we ask the, uh --
7 Kevin maybe to distribute to all the members just to
8 make sure all of the -- everyone has current --
9 current lists.

10 Anderson: Okay, yeah, and we'd be happy to help you with that
11 (inaudible - 00:27:13) let me know. Thank you.

12 Brune: O- -- okay, thanks, commissioner. Any other questions
13 on -- on that agenda item? Okay, so the -- uh --
14 Agenda item, uh, 8, LEPC, uh, Committee Status
15 Reports. Normally we, uh -- uh -- so y'all -- y'all
16 should have received those, uh -- if there are any, uh
17 -- if there's anyone else that wa- -- uh -- any of the
18 LEPCs that want to speak, uh -- feel free to raise
19 your hand or -- or unmute your mic.

20 (CROSSTALK)

21 Reeve: Mr. Co-Chair, Kevin Reeve. Uh, none of the LEPCs
22 indicated they -- they desired, uh, to speak to the
23 SERC.

24 Brune: Thank you. Okay, well, I guess now we'll go to, uh,
25 Agenda Item 9, Old Business. Uh, we have, uh,

1 committee reports which were, uh -- written reports
2 were provided. Uh, finance, uh -- workplan,
3 interoperable communications, citizen corps, uh, all
4 hazards plan review, training, disaster search and
5 rescue, statewide mutual aid compact. Each of those
6 were in your packets, uh -- I don't know if there
7 were, uh -- any specific questions from the SERC
8 members, uh, for, uh -- regarding any of those
9 committee reports? All righty, hearing none, we will
10 move on --

11 (CROSSTALK)

12 Brune: Oh, sure, go ahead, I'm sorry.

13 Cook: This is Casey Cook. Uh, so I just -- on -- on the one
14 that we'd -- we'd put in for the, uh -- uh -- mutual
15 aid compact, uh -- so, a new thing that has come up
16 recently and Bryan maybe you can jump in on this too
17 is that, uh -- if -- this ties in with the -- the
18 credentialing qualification system now that FEMA's
19 pushing out and it's tying into the EMPG funding, uh,
20 that a lot of the local jurisdictions are, uh --
21 impacted by and so this is just another reason to get
22 this, uh -- mutual aid compact and credentialing that
23 Bryan's folks are working on, uh -- is an important
24 thing for those of us on the local side. So, just
25 wanted to throw that in there.

1 Brune: That's a great point. Thank you, Casey. Bryan, do
2 you have anything you want to say in response?

3 Fisher: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks, Commissioner Cook. Uh,
4 yeah, you -- you know, bottom line, we -- all the
5 states in this nation were struggling on, uh, putting
6 together our own kind of individual credentialing
7 program with our own position task books for incident
8 command system positions, uh, we were one of those
9 states how- -- however, we were, uh -- sorry, my
10 family's just coming home from school, uh -- however,
11 we recently decided that we were going to avail
12 ourselves of the FEMA position task books that were
13 developed and are in a management system called One
14 Responder, so we are retooling to move, uh, entirely
15 that way and are standing by to support all of our
16 communities that end up with some grant requirements,
17 uh -- with respect to that system in credentialing and
18 qualification, so, uh -- it's been a -- it's been a
19 very, very long process. I think it -- it -- it
20 assists with standardization of incident qualification
21 so we can share responders across state lines through
22 the emergency management assistance compact -- that
23 kind of thing. So, it -- it -- it's only good news
24 for us, and, uh -- we're going to continue to support
25 everybody, uh, with these requirements as they come



1 out from FEMA for some of our grants and -- and, uh --
2 other processes, and -- and always make sure that
3 we're tied in with the Department of Natural Resources
4 and the Alaska and National Wildfire Coordinating
5 Group so we can, uh, provide all hazards responders to
6 the fire world and fire responders to the all hazards
7 world. Thank you.

8 Brune: Thanks, Bryan. Casey? Uh, any follow ups?

9 Cook: Uh, the only follow up was I -- I wasn't aware that
10 I'd been promoted to commissioner of something, but I
11 appreciate the, uh -- the support and the -- from the
12 -- from Bryan, so thanks.

13 Brune: So, Casey, I expect -- remember, you said you're
14 supposed to be doing this and leaning back, uh --
15 during the meeting, so -- I --

16 Cook: Was that -- was that my cue? Yeah.

17 Brune: Yeah, e- -- exactly. Thank you for your comments.
18 Uh, any -- any other, uh, thoughts or questions on the
19 committee reports? All righty. Hear -- uh -- hearing
20 none, we'll move to new business and I get to
21 introduce one of the, uh -- or two of my, uh -- uh --
22 favorite Alaskans who have just dedicated their lives
23 to us over the last couple, uh -- 15, 17 months, and
24 that's Heidi and Bryan again. Uh -- for -- for their,
25 uh -- status of, uh -- COVID and vaccinations, so I



1 don't know if I'm turning it to you, Bryan, or to --
2 to Heidi, but again, like I said, I can't thank you
3 both enough for all the work you and your teams have
4 done.

5 Fisher: Again --

6 Hedberg: Well, thanks --

7 Fisher: -- (inaudible - 00:32:19) chair, thank you very much.
8 Uh, for the record, uh, Bryan Fisher, uh -- now
9 playing the role of incident commander, uh, with the
10 state's COVID-19 Unified Command and my partner in
11 preparedness response, uh, Director Hedberg, uh, the
12 floor is yours.

13 Hedberg: I thought you were going to lead off on this one,
14 Bryan. But I can get it started. Uh, you know, this
15 will be, uh, for many of you -- you heard the same
16 presentation at the LEPC, so we will, uh, keep it
17 short and brief, but this is really just talking about
18 the arc of effort that we have right now, uh, on
19 vaccine. So, Bryan, do you want to advance to the
20 next slide?

21 Fisher: Should be advanced.

22 Hedberg: Oh, there we go. All right, uh -- so, uh -- I would
23 like to say, you know, we -- we want to be transparent
24 and we want to make sure that we are sharing, uh, the
25 data that we have, so we have a lot of dashboards.



1 One of them is on cases. This actually, uh, is
2 yesterday's case count, so 64,202. You can clearly
3 see that we have one large spike and then vaccine came
4 in December and you can see how that trending line is
5 just sort of stable and hanging out there. And
6 unfortunately, we have, uh, had 329, uh, fatalities
7 due to COVID, and our hearts go out to those
8 individuals and the families. Bryan, do you want to
9 share anything?

10 Fisher: Yeah, I do -- I do just want to, uh -- for the
11 commission's, uh, benefit want -- wanted to mention
12 our, you know -- our continued partnership with the
13 Federal Emergency Management Agency. They recently
14 did just this month, uh, turn on a program for funeral
15 assistance benefits for families who incurred funerary
16 expenses for a -- a death associated with COVID-19.
17 So, as always, we -- you know, one of our largest
18 partners from my agency is -- is FEMA. They have that
19 program running now. We are supporting them with
20 getting the word out to communities and individuals
21 that have been unfortunately -- have -- have to deal
22 with a death and -- and funeral expenses for COVID-19,
23 so -- wanted to -- to say thank you to FEMA for that
24 program and, uh -- looking forward to continuing to
25 help get that message out to provide some -- some, uh,



1 relief to those families that had to deal with those
2 tragedies.

3 Hedberg: All right. So, we are just hovering below 50% on
4 vaccinations, uh, for Alaskans 16 years and older.
5 Uh, that's in part due to all of your collective
6 efforts in working with your communities. Uh, and so,
7 we often ask, uh, when is it over? Well, vaccine is
8 the ticket out of a pandemic and you know, we really
9 are looking, uh, to increase our, uh, vaccination rate
10 and getting into those higher numbers -- into that 70
11 to 90%. So, we have some work to do ahead of that.
12 Some -- in a little bit, we're going to talk about a
13 new campaign that we just launched a couple of days
14 ago.

15 Fisher: I wanted to share, uh, in addition you know, on this -
16 - I again thank you, you know, for -- for your local
17 emergency planning committees, uh -- you know, that
18 organization is really a planning body but the
19 representatives on those committees really have, uh,
20 direct roles in caring for Alaskans in those
21 communities, whether it's, uh -- in a position of
22 emergency manager, or fire chief, police chief, uh,
23 transportation safety folks, and, uh -- you know, they
24 -- they have really done, uh -- the heavy lifting to -
25 - to make this happen across the state, so I want to



1 say thank you to that. One thing I will note -- you
2 know, these numbers and percentages -- we get lots of
3 questions on that and it's a moving target, and what
4 is the actual target? I will say we're very hopeful
5 that we see, uh, vaccines approved under the emergency
6 youth authoriz- -- use authorizations for adolescents
7 between 12 and 15 years of age fairly soon, so the
8 good news is it -- it will be available soon to that,
9 uh -- that demographic. We may have time to get that
10 out in place before school season next year. However
11 that changes the calculus, if you will, and that --
12 that percentage of eligible Alaskans vaccinated is
13 going to fluctuate a little bit as, uh, age
14 eligibility opens up as that process goes through the
15 FDA and the, uh -- the, uh, CDC and their advisory,
16 uh, committee on immunization practices. I've got the
17 scoop. I'm very, very happy to announce -- super
18 excited -- very seriously hot off the presses, that
19 the advisory commu- -- committee on immunization
20 practices, along with the Food and Drug Administration
21 just announced that the pause for the Johnson &
22 Johnson Janssen vaccine is over. They are
23 recommending through the emergency use authorization
24 for the J&J Janssen vaccine, uh, that it is available
25 and -- and eligible to any Americans 18 and older, so,



1 uh -- from the federal government's perspective, uh,
2 they met, deliberated, uh, waited for some additional
3 data based on what many of you have heard in the news
4 about the, uh -- the severe, uh, adverse reactions
5 that happen, so they did their deliberations. They
6 voted, uh, as they do today, and have announced that
7 the pause is over, so that single shot Johnson &
8 Johnson, uh, Janssen vaccine is available to all of
9 you, all of us again moving forward, so really great
10 news there.

11 Hedberg: All right. So, we have -- as I mentioned before, a
12 vaccine dashboard, and, uh -- if you go to the DHSS
13 website, uh -- and you go over to -- click over to
14 COVID, you can actually go down and -- and pull up, uh
15 -- the various dashboards, but I just want to bring
16 your recognition that we do have this broken down by
17 census borough area. Uh, we try to protect
18 information so we're not going to -- we are unable to
19 break it down to smaller amounts, partially in due --
20 because, uh, less than 1,000, you can really try to
21 identify who that person is, and so we want to protect
22 that so we don't go less than 1,000 for a community.
23 The other part, uh, on vaccine, and you'll -- we get
24 this question quite often. Why can you break it down
25 further in positive cases versus vaccine? The



1 vaccine, uh -- the way the information flows, uh -- a
2 lot of people provide PO Boxes, and so we're not able
3 to, uh -- when we pull that, uh, data to break it down
4 beyond that census borough area, the PO Boxes may be
5 in one zip code but everybody lives in another area.
6 And so it gets kind of funky. We're still working
7 through that, trying to figure out how to break it
8 down so we can give that feedback back to communities.
9 But right now, we are looking at the, uh, borough
10 census area, and just a shoutout to Skagway, they have
11 the highest vaccination rate right now at 77%. So,
12 well done. Good job.

13 Fisher: I will add that we just completed our first popup, uh,
14 Zoom ECHO, uh, relating to workplace safety. Our --
15 our good friends and partners at the Department of
16 Labor and Workforce Development, the Alaska Office of,
17 uh, Occu- -- Occupational Safety and Health, uh,
18 joined us in -- in that meeting with the businesses
19 around the state that looked at not only vaccination
20 but general, uh, information for businesses as they
21 resume in person work and -- and -- and reopen and
22 those kinds of things. So, we're going to continue to
23 do that, and -- and definitely thank you to, uh,
24 Department of Labor and Workforce Development for that
25 partnership. Uh, one other question that we do get



1 with respect to vaccine reporting is if we can provide
2 kind of a regional breakdown, uh -- specifically on
3 the Department of Defense and Veteran's Administration
4 vaccinations, uh, that have been administered in your
5 communities, and (inaudible - 00:40:40) we get
6 aggregate data at this point, however, there have been
7 some innovative -- in- -- innovative ways for local
8 jurisdictions to communicate directly with their, uh,
9 defense partners and -- and veterans administration
10 partners to try and get a little bit more, uh, local
11 information to share with members of the public and
12 their community. So, that's continuing to go on. Uh
13 -- I could pull this slide right out, uh -- I will say
14 that, uh -- you know, there are and always will be as
15 part of this process ongoing safety checks with --
16 with respect to the vaccines that are being
17 administered around the country. We're -- we're -- we
18 think it's a very positive, uh, response, uh, that
19 Johnson & Johnson Janssen pause that I just announced
20 is over, uh -- it really shows that our COVID vaccine
21 safety systems, like the Vaccine Adv- -- Adverse Event
22 Reporting System, or VAERS, are working. That's why
23 they exist, that's why the -- the clinical trials, uh,
24 for both the MRNA vaccines from Pfizer, BioNTech and
25 Moderna, as well as the J&J, uh, Janssen vaccine, uh,



1 have gone through that entire process. VAERS is a
2 system that anybody can report into, but if there are
3 severe adverse reactions, then healthcare providers
4 that can administer the vaccine are required by law to
5 -- to report those in -- in the VAERS system. And
6 there are other great tools out there, uh -- I can
7 tell you, for example, VSAFE (ph) -- uh -- VSAFE is
8 kind of a self -- uh -- self-checking tool that the
9 CDC provides. I used it myself. I -- you know, I
10 still get a weekly, uh, check in on that. Super
11 simple to use. It's not really an app, it's just a
12 sign up and they kind of send you a text and you click
13 a couple of boxes on your -- your, uh -- symptoms of
14 after getting the vaccine, so those things are great.
15 That's one of the reasons why these vaccines are so
16 safe, and efficacious, is because we have these
17 systems in place to make sure that, uh, we're doing
18 the right thing across the nation with those vaccines.

19 Hedberg: And I think Bryan actually kind of highlighted this,
20 uh -- in the earlier part of the presentation, but we
21 are eagerly waiting. We know that any day now, uh --
22 once the FDA, uh, is done reviewing the, uh -- results
23 from the clinical trials, uh -- for Pfizer, that
24 vaccine for kids, uh -- all the way down to the age of
25 12 will become available, and, uh -- right on the



heels of Pfizer will eventually be Moderna. So, uh -- and at the end of this slide deck, uh, we actually will show you -- we have a popup ECHO specifically for youth, uh, because we really need to educate, uh, youth about the vaccine, just like we're educating workplaces, we're educating Alaskans, and industries. We now need to target that messaging to our youth between 12 to 15. I also just want to highlight, uh, for those of you, uh -- watching this presentation, that there is a -- uh -- we have a speaker's bureau. We have a -- a suite of, uh, healthcare providers from clinical pharmacists to PAs to NPs to doctors, and, uh, they are up to date on all of the CDC recommendations, and they're really subject matter experts in terms of communicating, uh -- the information on -- on, uh -- the virus and, uh -- uh -- the vaccine and kind of answering any of your questions. So, if you would like to have a, uh -- someone come from the speakers bureau, just click on that Jotform, complete the topic and it can be any topic related to COVID, and they will, uh, either come in person, uh, or they will, uh, do it virtually, and again, the big focus of -- and arc of effort is on education.

Fisher: So, cou- -- just a couple of notes, I -- I will say we

1 are -- we are unbelievably excited in, uh, kind of the
2 timing of this potential roll out, for, uh,
3 adolescents and then, you know, further down the road
4 for children. We -- we were very hopeful that it was
5 going to be sometime midsummer, maybe, to -- to have
6 this available, hoping that the timing would work for,
7 uh, particularly back to school immunizations for
8 families. That's used to -- to do so for their
9 children, uh -- and it looks like it's going to be
10 even faster than we thought, so very, very excited
11 about this, uh -- and then, uh -- like Heidi said, I -
12 - I think those local -- those presentations from our
13 speakers bureau are available to all of you as
14 agencies, uh -- they're available to local businesses
15 or business groups, uh, rotary clubs, all those kinds
16 of things, and we're -- we're kind of in it to win it
17 to pr- -- to try to share that information and -- and
18 I would like to say, you know, the media, both
19 traditional media and social media outlets have been
20 amazing partners with us, uh -- your crisis
21 communicators and your public information officers and
22 public affairs officers have just been absolutely
23 amazing, uh, working harder than any of us, uh, at
24 many times to get this word out and -- and work on
25 things like hesitancy and -- and sharing the real



1 science and data behind these vaccines.

2 Hedberg: All right. So, we, uh -- recognize that, uh -- you

3 know, our vaccine -- there was a group that wanted to

4 get vaccinated. They were clamoring for the

5 appointments. They have been vaccinated, and, now,

6 uh, our vaccination rates -- just as Commissioner

7 Brune had mentioned in the very beginning. We were

8 number one, and now we're starting to kind of -- uh --

9 slow down, and it's because we're sort of hitting that

10 wall. It's for a variety of reasons. Uh, we hear

11 that it's, uh -- it's an accessibility -- it's an

12 education. There's a large group that's like, eh, I'm

13 not motivated, not ready yet. Some still think that

14 it's a scarce resource, and so when we take a step

15 back and we look at where we're at, you know, we

16 started this, uh, vaccine campaign in December. It

17 has only been, uh, five months. Which is pretty

18 significant when you look at we're just hovering less

19 than 50% Alaskans. Well done. Like, that's a big

20 deal, right? But we need to, uh, again shift to that

21 new group that is just on the fence. They need an

22 incentive, they need a motivator to get vaccinated,

23 and so, uh -- the governor announced in one of his

24 videos, uh, sleeves up for summer. It's really the

25 May campaign. We want to increase vaccination by 25%

1 in our various regions. We had a handful of community
2 meetings yesterday, very positive. I think that it's
3 -- people are looking for something to rally around,
4 they're looking for a logo, they're looking for some -
5 - just a new way to, uh, look at vaccine. We're
6 asking businesses to step up and partnering with
7 businesses and it's been really positive to see how
8 excited they are to be the front and lead this. Uh,
9 and this is about restoring, uh, our economy. You
10 know, governor's been clear for the last 15 months
11 we've been focusing on the health of Alaskans, and now
12 we need to focus on the economy. And really this is
13 that transition in recovery, and so, uh -- the month
14 of May is supporting the communities as businesses are
15 really leading in increasing vaccination rates before
16 tourists really pick up, uh -- June 1st. So, you can
17 see the three benefits that we have -- economy first,
18 support communities, and again, that foundation of
19 promoting health and wellbeing of Alaskans.

20 Fisher: We will --

21 Watkins: May I ask a question?

22 Hedberg: Sure.

23 Watkins: It's -- it's okay?

24 Hedberg: Sure.

25 Brune: Yes. Please proceed.

1 Watkins: Okay. I'm sorry. My name's Kathy Watkins (ph). So,
2 I just have a question. Uh -- what do you think is
3 the percentage of -- or do you have any sense of what
4 the percentage is of people who flat out refuse?
5 Because that's what I run into, up in -- uh -- upper
6 Susitna Valley.

7 Hedberg: Yeah, uh, what our surveys show -- and it's a national
8 -- it's on par with national standards. It's about
9 20%.

10 Watkins: Okay. Thank you.

11 Hedberg: Mmm-hmm.

12 Fisher: We have and continue -- you know, we kind of -- even
13 as early -- uh -- you know, before we even received
14 the vaccine and continuing, uh, we will continue to
15 conduct surveys with our -- with our partners to, uh -
16 - continue to understand the -- the -- the changing
17 demographics, uh -- of people that want it, the people
18 that didn't know they could get it, by the way it's
19 free, free, free, free, free. Uh, there are still
20 people who think that there's a cost associated with
21 the vaccine. Uh, but we are continuing to do, uh,
22 market surveys and research, sharing it with all, uh -
23 - with academia and -- and us, and government and the
24 local folks to understand where we're kind of at as we
25 transition from, uh -- the -- kind of the first blitz

1 of vaccinations to, uh -- to where we are now with the
2 -- either groups that are hesitant or groups that are
3 just hanging on a little bit longer before they decide
4 -- or individuals that -- before they decide, uh, to
5 get vaccinated or not.

6 Hedberg: All right. So, uh -- variants. We know that the
7 coronavirus, it changes. It morphs. It mani- -- it,
8 uh -- it's constantly, uh, changing, and so that is
9 why it's incredibly important to test, and we -- it's
10 called sequencing, so when there is a positive test
11 result, we are now able to sequence and identify what
12 the lineage is of that virus to see if there's any
13 commonality. There's sort of two buckets. There is,
14 uh, variants of concern, and there is variants of
15 interest. Many of you have heard through the media --
16 the British strain, also known as the B117, the
17 Brazilian strain, which is the P1, and then, uh -- the
18 South African strain. And, uh -- we do have a couple
19 of the P1s and a couple of the B117s but thankfully
20 due to contact tracing, uh, while they were identified
21 as a variant, uh -- of concern, they -- the
22 individuals, uh, isolated as they should have and they
23 -- there was no transmission outside of the family.
24 So, we post every week and there's the link at the
25 bottom so you can actually monitor yourself the

1 variants of concern and variants of interest. Uh --
2 we were one of the early adopters of sequencing.
3 Sequencing actually is incredibly time, uh, intensive.
4 It takes, you know, between three and five days to
5 sequence a sample, and we can, you know, uh --
6 sequence about 50 of them, so we started several
7 months ago, and, uh, we were actually working with --
8 this is, like, random trivia for you, but we were
9 actually sending our positive samples in to other
10 states and they were getting up to speed on
11 sequencing. Uh, our sequencing -- all of this data is
12 shared collectively with the other states through CDC
13 so that, uh -- as the United States, we can really see
14 what are the dominant strains within the coronavirus
15 family. Anything you want to add, Bryan?

16 Fisher: Yeah, so, uh -- we're -- we are continuing to do quite
17 a bit of work with healthcare providers in communities
18 around the state as well as, uh -- those that are
19 performing the molecular tests around the state, so,
20 you know, the bottom line is any of our providers that
21 are doing those testing can send a positive sample,
22 uh, to our virology lab in Fairbanks led by the
23 amazing Doctor Jamie Parker (ph), uh, and that's kind
24 of where that sequencing is taking place. So, they're
25 not sequencing every single positive test in the



1 state. We are definitely prioritizing getting airport
2 testing, you know -- people who come through the
3 airports and test positive, getting -- getting those,
4 uh -- samples to the lab to go through this sequencing
5 piece, uh -- and then, like Director Hedberg said, you
6 know, we're -- we're going to have some updated
7 information Wednesdays in our -- our weekly email case
8 count on that day, and then there's a very detailed
9 genomic report that's posted on the website. We try
10 to get that out at -- at a -- a pretty consistent, uh,
11 periodicity but sometimes it -- it just takes the lab
12 staff a little bit longer to get those out, so trying
13 to get those out Fridays, but sometimes they may be
14 delayed just a tiny bit, and again, our laboratory,
15 uh, clinicians and support staff, uh, have been just,
16 uh -- rockstars through this whole thing. Again, the
17 -- you know, working, uh, all day, all night, all
18 year, to, uh -- support this effort as well as the --
19 the testing effort, and all of the regular testing and
20 laboratory work that they have to do to keep us
21 healthy and safe in the state. So, you -- uh -- many
22 of you have seen this before. There have been many,
23 uh, anecdotes or examples from Doctor Zinc (ph) or
24 Doctor McLaughlin (ph) and others, uh -- to try to --
25 uh -- uh -- create a picture of how the layered



1 approach -- you know, some refer to it as the defense
2 in depth, uh, really come together to make, uh -- make
3 things the safest for our -- our citizens and workers,
4 as possible. So, we -- you know, we really do want to
5 reiterate, uh -- we really -- we really do believe
6 from a public health and epidemiological perspective
7 that our way out of this pandemic, to put it in the
8 rearview mirror, is vaccination. However, that does
9 not alleviate, uh, the -- the good public health
10 practices -- what we call nonpharmaceutical
11 interventions, uh, to keep ourselves healthy not just
12 from COVID, but from influenza and other germs and
13 bugs and stuff like that. So, the washing of hands
14 and social distancing and wearing a mask -- all those
15 things that we've all been talking about kind of ad
16 infinitum for -- for the last year and a half are all
17 part of this layered approach or this Swiss cheese
18 approach or our -- our -- our safety net approach here
19 -- to really minimize the ability for that to happen.
20 Uh, the science continues to evolve. We are every day
21 seeing more and more data and, uh -- recommendations
22 from CDC and from our team that are coming out about
23 what it means to be fully vaccinated. Hopefully we'll
24 have some additional information, uh, to be out this
25 week or very, very soon with respect to, uh, our



1 advisories that we have out there. Recently, the CDC
2 revised their domestic travel guidance and said hey,
3 if you are fully vaccinated, you know -- two weeks
4 after your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or two
5 weeks after your Janssen vaccine, you no longer -- we
6 no longer recommend that you have to do a post -- a
7 pre-travel test, a post-travel test, uh -- quarantine,
8 uh -- if you're a close contact to somebody that's
9 identified as positive. So, that's really part of our
10 goal is to educate folks on the real benefits of
11 vaccination. Doctor McLaughlin likes to say, uh,
12 there -- there's a lot of information coming out about
13 what we call long COVID, some pretty serious, uh,
14 long-term implications for folks that are dealing with
15 that. You cannot get long COVID if you don't get
16 COVID, and if you're fully vaccinated, the likelihood
17 that you're going to get the co- -- the COVID disease,
18 uh, is -- is very, very small. It's not zero. The
19 vaccines aren't perfect. But they're as close to
20 perfect as, uh, you know, any vaccines that we've seen
21 in -- in recent history so, uh -- so, they -- and all
22 this information, these graphics and things -- our
23 public information team's doing an amazing job. This
24 is all shared with your public -- your crisis
25 communicators, uh, local media and local



1 communicators, uh, all the time. We have lots of
2 toolkits that we're -- we're using to share to get
3 that message out, and, uh -- get stuff on social
4 media, and TikTok and -- and Twitter and all of those
5 things that not many of us probably on this call use
6 on a regular basis, but our kids do, so --

7 Hedberg: All right. So, one of the big, uh -- learning moments
8 when you're facing a pandemic and you go virtual is
9 how do you educate and Zoom, it's, uh -- I've realized
10 you can put a lot of meetings in today when you go
11 Zoom to Zoom in 30 minute increments. Uh, it's
12 impressive, and so it -- we also recognize that we
13 can, you know -- Alaska's such a large state, but we
14 can really bring people together and see each other's
15 faces, and, uh -- share information and education, so
16 -- uh -- we continue to have our standard what we call
17 ECHOs which is just a Zoom virtual platform where we
18 share COVID information. Today from 12:00 to 1:00 as
19 -- as Bryan mentioned, we did have a workplace safety
20 which was actually great. I think we had 85 people
21 that attended which was fantastic. Our big, uh -- you
22 know, we have a May campaign, sleeves up for Alaska
23 focus but we do have a youth that we need to really
24 educate, uh, about vaccine. And so the 28th, we are
25 going to have, uh, a popup ECHO specifically for them,



1 and, uh -- it's going to be kind of fun. We're
2 actually going to try to -- we're going to do several
3 of them and then hopefully, uh, we'll have some youth
4 stuff up that will actually be able to carry this on
5 and perpetuate, uh, the education on COVID
6 vaccinations on TikTok and their other platforms that
7 they use. So, that's going to be fun. All right, you
8 guys, this is about partnership. Thank you. Thank
9 you. Thank you. Honestly, for all of, uh, the work
10 that you guys have done. It's been a long haul, and a
11 lot of work to do but, uh -- I really am honestly
12 thankful for, uh, knowing you and, uh, working
13 together with you through this pandemic response.

14 Fisher: On behalf of, uh, the governor and Commissioner Crum
15 and Doctor Zinc. Uh, I'd just like to echo that. We
16 can't thank you enough for your partnership in this.
17 We are all -- all in it to win it. Uh, and just
18 appreciate that and am available for any questions.
19 And we're, uh -- we're going to be here for as long as
20 it takes, but we hope it's not going to be a whole lot
21 longer.

22 Brune: Thank you so much for a great presentation, and again
23 all the efforts that you and your teams, uh, have
24 been, uh, making, uh, for -- for so long now. I too
25 hope that -- that this is soon going to be at an end.



1 Uh, are there any questions from, uh, commission
2 members for -- for Heidi or Bryan? Okay. Hearing
3 none, thank you, again. Uh -- let's then go to Letter
4 B on the agenda. Southeast landslide disaster status.
5 I believe that's Mark? Is Mark Roberts on?

6 Reeve: I'm checking his status right now Mr. Comi- -- or Mr.
7 Chair. Yeah, I --

8 Fisher: I'm happy to -- I'm happy to pitch in to the co-chairs
9 and Kevin if needed.

10 Brune: Well, I don't see his name on the list, uh -- to the
11 right, and so, uh -- I think we're going to, uh -- do
12 an audible and -- and take you up on that offer,
13 Bryan.

14 Fisher: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And, uh -- for the record,
15 Bryan Fisher with the Division of Homeland Security
16 and Emergency Management. So, as most of you know,
17 there was, uh -- you know, pretty serious issue in
18 southeast Alaska with just incredible, uh, rains that,
19 uh, caused a number of landslides and other damages
20 both with, uh, rain and flooding and wind, uh -- since
21 last we met. Unfortunately, there is a -- there was a
22 tragedy. We -- we mentioned at the top of this
23 meeting, uh -- some tragic events. We lost some
24 residents in Haines -- specifically within the Haines
25 borough as part of that response. Uh, I -- I do want

1 to say, you know, on -- on behalf of, uh, our agency,
2 thank you to the United States Coast Guard and the
3 Alaska Department of Public Safety and the Alaska
4 State Troopers for their rapid response to provide
5 search and rescue services immediately following the
6 landslide, uh -- as the search went on to try and
7 identify who might have been in the path and who was
8 safe and unfortunately, like I mentioned, uh -- there
9 were -- there were some fatalities there that, uh --
10 our hearts go out with respect to that. So, that
11 search and rescue, uh, operation was incredible. We
12 have continued to support Mayor Olerud and the Haines
13 borough and the residents there, uh -- as -- as
14 always, an entire whole community, whole government,
15 and NGO team effort -- the Salvation Army of Alaska,
16 the American Red Cross of Alaska, uh, and many other
17 partners regionally in southeast really rallied to
18 support and provide additional, uh, benefit and, uh --
19 the thi- -- the items needed for folks that were, uh,
20 i- -- have either lost their homes or were -- or were
21 displaced from the event due to, uh, the utility line
22 still being, uh, disrupted because of that slide path.
23 Incredible amount of work being done with the
24 Department of Transportation and the Department of
25 Natural Resources Division of Geophysical and Geo- --



1 uh -- Geographical Survey. Uh, looking at slope
2 stability and analysis of the slide path, uh, the
3 debris field, and potentially stability options, uh,
4 hand in hand with the community, uh -- looking at the
5 ability to reopen the road that has been closed, Beach
6 Road, and, uh, get people permanent access back to
7 their homes on the other side of that path, uh -- the
8 governor did declare a disaster, uh -- for that event,
9 and not only for Haines but it, uh -- it impacted
10 multiple communities in southeast Alaska. Juneau had
11 quite a bit of damage, uh -- we activated our
12 individual assistance pr- -- program which hasn't been
13 used since the -- the, uh -- the big earthquake in
14 2018, and that provides, uh, some additional state
15 grant funding to support, uh, the survivors,
16 individuals and families, of that, uh, landslide and
17 the effects, uh, that -- that we saw throughout --
18 kind of widespread effects throughout southeast
19 Alaska. So, some good news, uh -- that -- assessments
20 have been going on all winter. There was a temporary
21 Pioneer Road put in across the slide path to allow
22 homeowners kind of land access, temporarily to their -
23 - to their homes, as well as, uh, people going across,
24 uh, via the water to -- to access their homes. The
25 community recently decided that they were going to,



1 uh, authorize the -- the -- the clearance of the slide
2 path to -- to try to get that road permanently
3 reopened, uh, either on top of the path or excavating
4 the debris field along the Beach Road area. That will
5 lead fairly rapidly to, uh, you know, the restoration
6 of utility services that can't happen until there --
7 there's a permanent safe and stable road, uh -- in
8 place, so very hopeful there. We continue to provide
9 support to survivors. Obviously, the entire response
10 both at the personal and community level, and agency
11 level, to the effects, uh, across southeast,
12 particularly in Haines, was all done, uh, COVID-
13 consciously, COVID-safely. We did a lot of, uh --
14 what we refer to as non-congregate sheltering, where
15 we -- we -- we don't put cots on a gym floor, however
16 we do, uh, put people in hotels where they're
17 available to keep the -- the -- the COVID safety, uh,
18 protocols in place, and we've done that and continued
19 to support temporary housing measures for those that
20 are displaced from their homes. And then having the
21 longer term discussions with the community, and
22 homeowners, and, uh -- agencies on you know, future
23 steps with respect to the -- the potential dangers and
24 hazards that are there in that community. And -- and
25 what it's going to look like moving forward to



1 homeowners whose homes are still there and -- and
2 continuing to support those who lost their homes or --
3 or -- or homes that were severely damaged. So, the --
4 the Department of Natural Resources, the DGDS folks,
5 as well as USGS and DOT, uh -- again, just
6 unbelievable work, uh -- in a dangerous area in the
7 middle of COVID in the middle of winter to try to
8 support, uh, the recovery process to that effort. And
9 of course, our home -- our -- all of our heroes with
10 the National Guard, uh, that were a big part of this,
11 uh -- the state troopers and the Coast Guard, uh, at
12 the front end of this thing. Uh, just -- just amazing
13 and I couldn't be more proud. Standing by for any
14 questions that any of the commission may have.

15 Brune: Bryan, thank you for stepping in for Mark who, uh,
16 we've been told by Kevin is, uh -- uh -- not able to -
17 - to join us at this time, so he appreciates you
18 stepping in. Other questions for -- for Bryan? Yeah,
19 that was great, great work by -- by the team on -- on
20 that one, uh, I've heard a lot of updates on -- on
21 what happened in Haines. And it was a tragedy, I'm
22 sorry for the loss of life there, uh, but the -- good
23 -- good work from -- from the folks at, uh -- uh,
24 National Guard on that. Uh -- hearing, uh, no
25 questions on that, we'll -- we'll move to, uh, Letter



1 C, which is a listening session. Uh, we do want to
2 keep this focused on, uh, impacts on and to the SERC,
3 uh -- we will, uh, open it up for SERC members for
4 discussion. Uh, part of your thoughts, uh -- I guess
5 we'll -- we'll just open it up to general discussion
6 at first, and then I'll -- I'll ask for us to discuss,
7 uh, our way forward for our fall meeting so that we're
8 sufficiently prepared with the agenda items and any
9 deliverables that we may want at that meeting to make
10 sure that we -- we come prepared for what -- what it
11 is you all want, uh -- uh -- of course, uh -- we'll --
12 as part of that, we'll look at the -- the federal and
13 state duties, uh, and what's -- what's ascribed to the
14 specific LE- -- LEPCs and -- and SERC, and, uh -- and
15 then of course we'll want to evaluate the abilities,
16 uh, that we have to -- to meet those requirements, uh
17 -- uh -- so those -- those are things I want to do but
18 we'll -- we'll start off with just a general --
19 general discussion from SERC members, so I'll open the
20 floor and if you wanted to use the raise your hand
21 function, uh, you can do that. It's -- uh -- for
22 those of you using, uh, regular teams, it should be
23 the third item where it has a hand and a smiley face.
24 You can raise your hand, or if we don't want to be so
25 formal, feel free to just unmute yourself. The



1 silence is deafening. Okay, no general -- no general
2 discussion. Uh, how about, uh -- uh -- thoughts or
3 deliverables for, uh -- for this fall's meeting?

4 Cook: Hey, commissioner, this is Casey.

5 Brune: Yeah, go ahead, Casey.

6 Cook: All right, so I -- I guess -- I might have missed that
7 first part, so for the -- the fall meeting coming up,
8 and I know I've spoke about this a couple times, uh --
9 the ready, set, go campaign, uh, which, uh -- uh --
10 DNR, uh, kind of has a hand in -- and -- and DHS and
11 them kind of have a hand in as well, uh, I know we've
12 been talking about that the last couple SERC meetings,
13 uh -- I'd like to see some forward movement on that on
14 a statewide decision or discussion about the -- the
15 ready, set, go, red, yellow, green, uh, discussion, uh
16 -- and I know we -- we can do that offline, but I just
17 want to kind of go on record that we're still waiting
18 for some statewide direction on that here at the local
19 level. Uh --

20 Brune: Casey, can I -- can I interrupt real quickly? Uh,
21 Ashley (ph), are you on from DNR?

22 Ashley: Yes, I am.

23 Brune: Okay, I -- I just wanted to make sure that, uh -- that
24 you heard, uh, uh -- Casey, uh -- Casey's
25 recommendation and -- and that we plan to incorporate

1 that for the fall meeting.

2 Ashley: I do hear that and will pass that along, and Casey,
3 feel free to follow up with me, uh, specifically on
4 that if you'd like.

5 Cook: Will do. Thanks.

6 Ashley: Thanks.

7 Cook: Uh, and the second one, just kind of, uh, information
8 -- uh -- so, Alaska Emergency Management Association,
9 we're -- we're up and running. I know we've talked
10 about it and I've given little, uh, updates at the
11 SERC before. Uh, we're about ready to start doing our
12 credentialing, uh, for certified Alaska Emergency
13 Manager, uh -- working with, uh -- Acting Director
14 Fisher's folks to see what that looks like for some
15 reciprocity at the state level as well, but we just
16 want to make sure that that's still in everyone's mind
17 and -- and -- and knows about what the Alaska
18 Emergency Management Association is doing throughout
19 the state. So, thanks.

20 Brune: Thanks, Casey. Bryan, do you have any follow up on --
21 on the SE- -- or the credentialing?

22 Fisher: Yeah, so -- so, a little bit more information for new
23 members of the commission, uh -- you know, the Alaska
24 Emergency Managers -- Management Association is really
25 a -- a grassroots group, uh, that is looking to



1 advance the profession of emergency management, uh,
2 through kind of all aspects throughout the state. So,
3 as the, uh, acting director of the division, uh, we
4 have been in full support of the efforts of Casey and
5 Ron Schwartz (ph) from the University of Alaska,
6 Anchorage, uh -- as well as all the other members and
7 participants in AKEMA (ph) as we call it. Uh, this
8 certification, uh, process that Casey's talking about
9 for the fall -- a little bit different than the
10 credentialing that I talked about earlier. That's
11 really about incident command system positions and
12 qualifications that AKEMA Alaska Certification Program
13 is similar to -- to a program that happens nationwide,
14 uh, from the International Association of Emergency
15 Managers, uh, which is called the Certified Emergency
16 Manager Program and -- and many, uh, professionals in
17 the industry have that CEM, uh, behind their name. We
18 want to be able to provide that opportunity to
19 Alaskans, and we are absolutely committed to support
20 AKEMA in putting that together as they, uh -- they
21 begin their -- their testing process, uh, to have
22 people apply for that -- that certification and
23 endorsement that they can use to really, really lift
24 up the recognition of, uh -- of emergency management
25 as a real professional occupation. So, we're -- we're



1 in full support of AKEMA's efforts and we'll be happy
2 to -- to, uh, provide any support needed for the fall
3 meeting to continue to discuss that, as well as the
4 ready set go that -- that Mr. Cook talked about. We,
5 uh -- uh -- you know, will probably be implementing
6 that in some fashion this summer. I mean, hopefully
7 not. We were pretty safe last year from, uh,
8 wildfires for the most part, uh -- we certainly hope
9 that happens again, but if not, it is a continued, uh,
10 concern. We want to make sure we're all consistently
11 applying that -- that program and process with respect
12 to, uh, preparing people to evacuate, and then getting
13 them evacuated and then a safe return to their homes
14 after the threat passes, and it's not just for
15 wildfire. It could be many things, so in full support
16 of that also. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 Brune: Yeah, thanks, Casey. Thanks, Bryan. And yeah, let's
18 -- let's hope. We -- we had -- we had enough snow, we
19 should have an easy fire season. That's -- that's
20 knoc- -- knock on wood on that one, but you -- you --
21 you never know. Uh -- uh -- other -- other comments?
22 Thank you, again, Casey. Other -- other thoughts from
23 -- from members?

24 Vakalis: Uh, to the co-chair, uh -- this is George Vakalis.
25 So, we -- we --

1 Brune: Go ahead, George.

2 Vakalis: Hi. So, o- -- one of the concerns that I have and
3 it's -- and it's been expressed by your, uh -- your
4 LEPCs, is the financing piece, uh -- to keep these
5 organizations going. You know, we do have, uh -- our
6 federal requirement to have a SERC and LEPC. And
7 they're not properly being resourced right now as you
8 know, because they were not written into the budget,
9 and so you know, they've been struggling, uh, for some
10 time now, and they've also been taking a real good
11 internal look as to what some of their requirements
12 are. And quite frankly, some of the smaller
13 communities as -- the unorganized areas, you know,
14 they rely heavily on the funding to be able to at
15 least have expertise come in and help them out, and
16 they have to pay for that expertise an awful lot of
17 the times to develop plans, uh -- and also to help
18 them organize. And so, I would only say that I'm
19 hopeful that between now and our next meeting, we can
20 figure out a way to at least help resource some of
21 these LEPCs that need it the most. Uh, obviously our
22 larger communities, you know, have internal methods in
23 which they basically can help resource themselves.
24 But an awful lot -- in fact, a majority of our LEPCs
25 don't have that. So, I would encourage, uh -- you

1 know, these -- the staff of the state, uh, to see if
2 there's any way that we can come up with some
3 resourcing for them, and I'm speaking as the, uh,
4 chair of the finance committee, so -- so thank you.

5 Brune: Thank you, George. You -- you've made that comment
6 previously, so, uh, I -- I've heard it, I understand
7 it, and that's something that, uh -- uh -- General
8 Saxe and myself will -- will sit down with, uh, our
9 teams to -- to discuss, uh -- and we'll -- we'll have
10 that as a -- uh -- update for the October meeting.
11 Thank you, George, for raising that.

12 Anderson: Jason? If I may?

13 Brune: Yeah, go ahead, Julie.

14 Anderson: Uh, I think that's an excellent point, George. And as
15 I've been reviewing all the different funding avenues
16 coming from the American Rescue Plan, uh, I think this
17 is one of those opportunities that we could use for
18 leverage. Different, uh, entities' funding programs.
19 So, I would like to have a conversation sooner rather
20 than later about how we might be able to leverage
21 state funds, travel (ph) funds, et cetera to be able
22 to put something in place that's sustainable for a few
23 years, because I believe depending -- depending on the
24 funding stream, some of these funds are available for
25 four years, and some for even longer, so -- perhaps we



1 can get together sooner.

2 Brune: Tha- -- thanks, commissioner. Uh, we'll make sure

3 that we -- we have you as part of that conversation.

4 Other -- other comments? All righty, well, uh -- we

5 had that slated for 60 minutes worth of discussion and

6 maybe we -- we bordered on six so, uh -- it is Friday

7 afternoon, so maybe there's an interest in -- in

8 enjoying the sun, but, uh -- we'll -- we'll go ahead

9 and go to the next -- next agenda item which is, uh,

10 some more informational, uh -- uh -- items. Uh --

11 actually, no, I'm sorry. Uh, other state agency and

12 ex officio reports. We didn't receive, uh, any, uh --

13 so there wasn't anything included in the packet but

14 if, uh, anyone representing the agencies wanted to

15 make comments, uh, in the absence of their reports,

16 uh, speak now. Okay. Now we'll go to, uh -- Agenda

17 Item 12, Informational Items. And of course these

18 are, uh, provided as, uh, reference material in -- in

19 your packets on ta- -- Tab 12 both, uh -- SERC

20 policies and procedures manual, uh, from, uh, 2018,

21 which includes our ethics information for members of

22 boards and commissions, as well as the SERC bylaws.

23 Just, uh, making sure as an agenda item that we, uh,

24 refer those to you, especially for the -- the new

25 members. Uh, and we'll once again open it up to, uh,

1 public comment. Uh, I haven't seen anyone write
2 anything, uh, in the side but, uh -- uh, we have had a
3 few new folks join us since the presentations, and
4 there might be people that have been so inspired. If
5 there's anyone interested in, uh, giving public
6 comment, uh, feel free to, uh, unmute yourself and,
7 uh, we'll give you time to -- to address us.

8 Reeve: Mr. Co-Chair, it's Kevin Reeve. Uh, we did not have
9 anyone in the chat sign up for public comment. Uh,
10 unless someone wants to add in, the one thing that I
11 would ask, uh, on the last agenda item, uh, Mr. Chair,
12 is whether or not there's any need or any desire since
13 it's been -- it will have been two years since we
14 covered the, uh -- federal and state statute
15 requirements for the SERC, whether we need to do a
16 refresh on that in the fall.

17 Brune: You know, Kevin, from my perspective, it's probably
18 always good to make sure that we have updated, uh,
19 statutory, uh, authority, so I think that that's
20 probably a good agenda item just to add, just to make
21 sure that we -- we doublecheck that, uh -- uh -- on an
22 ongoing basis. We want to make sure we're current, so
23 good -- good recommendation, thank you.

24 Reeve: Thank you, sir.

25 Brune: Okay, so we will, uh -- hearing no public comment,

1 then, uh -- uh -- closing comments, uh -- we'll open
2 the floor up for any commission member to, uh, give,
3 uh, closing comments.

4 Anderson: Well, this is Julie again. I just would like to thank
5 everybody for all their hand work. It's been an
6 extraordinarily difficult year and -- for many and
7 lots of hours put in and I just would like to say as
8 many have already, thank you.

9 Brune: Very well said, commissioner. Thank you. Other
10 comments? Hearing none, uh -- uh -- my co-chair, any
11 -- any closing comments from you?

12 Christenson: Well, just on behalf of Commissioner Saxe, uh, I
13 would like to thank everyone for their attendance and
14 -- and their hard work, and, uh -- looking forward to
15 our next meeting. Thank you.

16 Brune: Thanks so much, Craig. And just as a reminder, uh --
17 we -- our next meeting will be on October 15th. Just
18 to, uh, put everyone at ease, obviously we're hoping
19 that, uh -- COVID will be behind us at that point.
20 That said, we will have virtual options available, uh
21 -- uh -- for sure. So, even if some of us do end up
22 getting together in person, there will be virtual
23 options available. Uh, we're not making any
24 commitments obviously right now, because we don't know
25 where we'll be come October 15th but, uh -- the hope

1 is, uh -- uh -- some of us will be able to get
2 together in person, uh, and -- but -- but for those of
3 you that won't be, uh -- don't feel comfortable, we'll
4 -- we'll have the virtual option, uh, available as
5 well. I appreciate everyone's efforts, uh, and time
6 today. Uh, stay safe please and, uh -- enjoy your
7 summers, and if I could please get a motion for
8 adjournment?

9 Vakalis: So moved, Vakalis.

10 Green: Seconded. Green.

11 Brune: Any opposition to the motion for adjournment? Hearing
12 none, it is 2:22 and the meeting is adjourned. Thank
13 you, everyone.

14 (CROSSTALK)

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